



SPAN 3313: Central American Culture
M/W: 5:30pm-6:50pm
TH 216
Spring 2018

Instructor: Thelma Cabrera

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Office Hours: MTWTh 5:00pm-5:30pm

Faculty Profile: <https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/thelma-cabrera>

Description of Course Content: This course will explore Central American culture through film, music, radio, politics, human rights movements, literature, language and/or Hispanic linguistics. Prerequisite: **SPAN** 2314 or **SPAN** 2315 with a grade of C or better.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Identify major historical periods that are important to Central America.
2. Exercise critical thinking skills to identify key cultural themes in films, literature, art, music, and documentaries.
3. Demonstrate geographic acquisition of Central America through the study of maps.
4. Utilize oral, written, and reading skills to organize a presentation in Spanish on a Central American country.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Burgos, Elizabeth. *Me Llamo Rigoberta Menchú y Así Me Nació La Conciencia*. Siglo Veintiuno, 2000.

An excellent bilingual dictionary, Spanish-English

Evaluation:

Attendance	5%
Participation	5%
Quizzes	5%
Interview	15%
Current Event	10%
Essay	20%
Exams	40%
Midterm	
Final	

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = < 60

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. **As the instructor of this course, I have set the following policy: students are permitted two absences, no questions asked, after the first two absences I will deduct 5 points from their attendance grade for every additional absence. Please note: The two "free absences" are to be utilized for illness and family emergencies. If a student wishes to plead special circumstances to be excused for any additional absences I will retroactively require documentation for previous absences as well as the current one.** Please note: I reserve the right to decline requests for excused absences beyond the second one. Arriving 5 minutes late will count as a tardy. Three tardies will equal an unexcused absence. Arriving 15 minutes late will count as an absence.

For Students on Federal Student Aid: While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Participation: Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions; their participation should reflect having done the readings for the class period. **I will deduct 5 points from their participation grade for not engaging in class/group activities each class period.**

Quizzes: Quizzes will be unannounced. These are quizzes on assigned readings, films, and on prior lectures by the professor. The purpose of these pop quizzes is to verify that students are doing the assigned reading and work in the class. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN** unless acceptable reason such as a family emergency, documented illness, medical or official written excuse from an academic dean, or participation in an approved official college activity is presented (notification and documentation required two weeks in advance, when applicable).

Interview: The interview will be done in a small group of 2-3 people. The group will find and contact a Central American person and will conduct a 3-5-minute interview. The group will submit a link of the interview on the due date. More details to come. **NO LATE INTERVIEWS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Current Event: Students will complete a writing assignment and will present it in front of the class along with a visual aid. Topics will be provided by the instructor and announced several days before the presentation date. Information will be posted in Blackboard. Follow the instructions carefully and look over the grading criteria for the assignment. No note cards or other visual aids containing text are allowed. This is NOT an oral reading assignment. Reading out loud for this assignment will result in a zero. I do not expect

perfection; I expect *communication*. A one page summary will be submitted along with the presentation.

Exams: About halfway through the course, you will have a Midterm Exam covering the information from the first half of the semester. This exam will be ON CAMPUS and is MANDATORY. You must check the calendar on the syllabus for the date of the exam. The Final Exam will cover material from the second half of the semester. It will be on **Monday, May 7, 2018 5:30pm-8:00pm**.

Essay: Students will write one formal essay (600-800 words) during the semester on a specific topic covered in class. The essay will require students to use proper grammar in Spanish and to use critical thinking skills when analyzing the movie *El Norte*. The purpose of the essay is to allow students to expand on classroom discussion on an individual basis.

Due dates and exam dates may change, and the course components may be slightly altered during the semester, depending on various factors. Any change will be announced in a timely fashion. No late work will be accepted, nor will there be opportunities for make-up exams/quizzes/presentations/interviews/essays.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. For undergraduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by

contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the right, then to the left, and down the stair. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one tutoring sessions, Start Strong Freshman tutoring program, and Supplemental Instruction.

Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit www.uta.edu/utsi or call 817-272-2617.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Thelma M. Cabrera.

Week 1	Topic	Pages	Assignments Due
1/15/18	MLK		
1/17/18	Syllabus		
Week 2			
1/22/18	Introducción / Prólogo	p. 7-8; 9-20	
1/24/18	Chapters I - II	p. 21-39	
Week 3			
1/29/18	Chapters IV-VII	p. 49-64	
1/31/18	Chapters VIII -X	p.65-83	
Week 4			
2/5/18	Chapters XI	p. 84-104	
2/7/18	Chapters XII - XIII	p. 105-116	
Week 5			
2/12/18	chapters XIV -XV	p.117-142	
2/14/18	chapters XVI - XVII	p.143-166	
Week 6			
2/19/18	chapters XVIII -XXI	p.167-188	
2/21/18	chapter XXII - XXIII	P. 189 - 207	
Week 7			
2/26/18	chapter XXIV - XXVI	p. 208 - 225	
2/28/18	chapters XXVII - XXVIII	p.226-234	
Week 8			
3/5/18	chapters XXIX - XXX	P. 235 - 251	
3/7/18	chapters XXXI - XXXIII	P. 252 - 271	
Week 9			
3/12/18	Spring Break		
3/14/18	Spring Break		
Week 10			
3/19/18	Movie <i>El Norte</i>	BB Article	
3/21/18	Movie <i>El Norte</i>		

Week 11			
3/26/18	Movie Discussion		
3/28/18	MIDTERM		MIDTERM
Week 12			
4/2/18	El español de Guatemala	Guest Speaker	ESSAY
4/4/18	Belize		Current Event
Week 13			
4/9/18	Costa Rica		Current Event
4/11/18	El Salvador		Current Event
Week 14			
4/16/18	Honduras		Current Event
4/18/18	Nicaragua		Current Event
Week 15			
4/23/18	Panama		Current Event
4/25/18	Interview viewings		INTERVIEW
Week 16			
4/30/18	Interview viewings / Review		
5/2/18	Review for Final Exam		

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381